

Did you know?



Sunday is Day-light Savings Time. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston AFB, SC

Charleston facts

In Fiscal Year '99, Charleston based C-141s and C-17s flew 41,228 flight hours.



CSAF survey gets extension

The deadline for taking the Air Force Chief of Staff Survey has been extended to Nov. 12.

Officials said Tuesday the need to collect as much data as possible was paramount to the success of the survey. That said, the success of gathering information through the use of the World Wide Web and the CSAF Survey's web site has been unprecedented, according to one official.

"The turnout has been amazing," said Capt. Pete Berg, CSAF Survey team. "In the first five days, we had 50,000 people turn in a survey via the Web. And these were people who persevered through some initial difficulty we had. It's a testament to people wanting to make positive change and let their voice be heard by the Air Force Chief of Staff."

At Charleston AFB, only 14.7 percent of those eligible to participate in the survey have done so, said 2nd Lt. Catherine Barker, manpower and organization officer.

Barker said she encourages participation in the survey. "The survey gives people a chance to provide their input about areas that need to be improved."

The Web-based portion of the survey is located at <http://csafs survey.randolph.af.mil>



Ops check

Tech. Sgt. Michael Pawlak (left) and Airman Clay Williams, both of the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, operationally check a replacement avionics component and the pitot static system on a C-141 Starlifter for air leaks. During the ops check, they simulate in-

flight conditions by pumping air into the pitot static probes located on the upper sides of the aircraft fuselage. This enables the aircraft flight instruments to be operationally checked as if the jet were actually flying.

Charlie Wall

CSAF cites readiness concerns

Air Force men and women are performing "great work," but the Air Force chief of staff cautions that low funding, low retention and high operations tempo are taking a toll.

Along with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other military service chiefs, Gen. Michael E. Ryan spoke before the Senate Armed Services Committee Oct. 26 on the military's readiness posture.

Ryan and his fellow service chiefs said the pay and compensation package signed into law Monday was a big step toward reversing the downward spiral in retention and recruiting. But more remains to be done in the readiness equation.

Ryan said the Air Force continues to view its readiness levels with concern.

"Several years of sustained high operations tempo and reduced funding in real terms have contributed to the slow, steady decline in our readiness."

He pointed out that readiness was down an additional 5 percent since his last appearance before the committee earlier this year, "partly because of our recovery efforts with the force after the air war in the Balkans."

To help alleviate the high operations tempo, Ryan said, "We've instituted the air expeditionary force concept, and I believe that in the long run, this should help our readiness

and bring a measure of stability and predictability to the lives of our airmen."

He expressed the belief that the readiness decline will level off once the fiscal 1999 and 2000 budget initiatives and supplemental funding take effect.

"We already are seeing signs of improvement," he said, citing the fact that 42 percent of eligible pilots elected to extend their length of service, up to six years this year, vs. only about one-fourth last year. The Air Force considers 42 percent of eligible pilots accepting a bonus to extend their service commitment a leading indicator of pilot retention.

"And we hope it continues," he said.

Another key factor in the readiness equation, the general told the committee, is recruiting and retention of the enlisted force.

"In 1999, that was the first year we did not meet our recruiting goal," he said, "but we, in fact, recruited more airmen in 1999 than in 1998."

The general said the Air Force is increasing the number of recruiters and advertising budgets to address the recruiting shortfall.

He added that 1999 was also the second year the service did not meet its re-enlistment goals.

"The highly technical nature of our force today and the 21st century requires we retain highly skilled individuals, particularly our NCOs (noncommissioned officers)," Ryan explained.

Air Force implements FY 2000 involuntary retraining program

Some Air Force noncommissioned officers may find themselves involuntarily retraining next year, since the Air Force fell short of its retraining goal for fiscal 2000.

The voluntary phase of the fiscal 2000 NCO retraining program wrapped up Oct. 15 with 945 approved applications, 70 percent of the Air Force's goal.

The involuntary phase, which begins Nov. 1, will use an Air Force-wide vulnerability listing to identify those selected for retraining based on total active federal military service dates between:

- Master sergeants: August 1982 or later
 - Staff sergeants and technical sergeants: August 1984 or later
 - Second-term senior airmen: August 1993 or later.
- Vulnerable members will be rank ordered by grade, from most eligible to least eligible using the following criteria:
- TAFMSD: junior to senior (i.e., Jan. 1, 1990 before Jan. 1, 1989)
 - Date arrived on station: longest to shortest (i.e., Jan. 1, 1989 before Jan. 1, 1990)
 - Date of rank: junior to senior (i.e., Jan. 1, 1990 before Jan. 1, 1989)

Date arrived on station, and then DOR will be used only

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Gen. Michael Ryan